Privacy Issues and Disclosure

The purpose of the survey is to provide useful information on climate change and the Honey Bee Nectar Flow dynamics in this region for use by beekeepers and scientific and studies. Collection of this information is only possible through the efforts of volunteer collectors such as yourself. Scientific analysis of the collected data requires fair and open sharing of the data. The investigation will require precise contact information, location, etc., for coordination, and will make use of public web pages for information dissemination to other scientists, state officials, and the general public. By agreeing to be part of this survey, volunteers will agree to make their observations and records available for public use. Volunteers as well as other parties can use the assembled data sets, including the satellite derived data, for their own analysis. Any reports, papers, independent web sites, etc., must acknowledge the source, and give proper credit to the volunteer providers and organizations which provide resources which make it possible.

NASA does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the data provided by the volunteer observers, but will work with the observing network to maintain the quality of the observations for scientific studies. We expect that the observations will follow the guidelines set forth in the Protocol document, and that significant departures from this will be documented by the volunteer. The default statement about quality is therefore 'Observations were made according to the guidelines set forth in "Protocol for Scale Hive Measurements of the Honey Bee Nectar Flow", W. Esaias, [current version, date, web url to be added]'. The protocol document will be reviewed periodically and revised as appropriate.

NASA will limit the information made publicly available via the web to protect the essential privacy of the individuals. As a baseline, public site identification will be limited to the site identifier and the location of the 1 km grid coordinate containing the site. That means that the public will only know the location of your apiary to within 1 kilometer. That is usually all that is needed for scientific investigation envisioned. Names, addresses, telephone numbers, more precise coordinates, email addresses, and any private URL's, necessary for coordinating the data collection by NASA, will not be made publicly available without the express permission of the volunteer, on a case by case basis. In some cases there may be legitimate scientific need for greater precision (such as investigations using very high resolution satellite data), in which case we will request that you provide such information to the investigation provided we receive assurance that it will be maintained as confidential. Volunteer observers agree that they will likewise keep such detailed information regarding other volunteer sites confidential, although they always have the right to disclose any information about their own site (via site specific URL's, for example) at their own discretion. We reserve the right to deny further access to any observer who does not agree with this understanding, or who violates disclosure policies.

For those who are unfamiliar with scientific investigations, the investigator must provide convincing evidence that the data he/she uses has certain/known levels of accuracy, and must provide access to key data so that any other scientist can look at it, repeat his/her analysis, and hopefully arrive at the same conclusion or results. If we do not provide access, the data are questionable, and may not be useful at all. Additionally,

continued access must be provided. Our purpose includes doing a quality survey so that in the future, when temperatures may be a bit warmer, investigators can understand and refer back to your 2007 observations, and compare their measurements, with confidence. It was relatively straight-forward for me to compare my MH observations with James Hambleton's 1922 observations (85 years ago) only because he published his methods, location, and the daily scale weights. So, we will endeavor to publish these data and maintain these data in an archive.

If the above is all too daunting, or you are still uncomfortable with the public disclosure of your location known to within 1 km, please send me an email or call, and we will see what other arrangements could be agreeable.

I will probably have to get some official at Goddard to look this over, and it may change somewhat, but this is similar to the policies NASA has with respect to other ocean and land surface data sets, and its satellite data – they are put into the public domain.

I have assigned you a Site ID. The site ID, plus the location in decimal degrees with two decimal accuracy (DD.DD), will be the only public identifier at this point. If you want us to provide public access to your email contact and or a URL, please let us know. Otherwise, the public will have to go through me to contact you. At some point, to provide you the credit you will deserve for making the observations and providing the information, it would seem reasonable to be able give a list of observer participants by name.

There are several ways for determining the lat-long position and elevation of your scale hive. If in Decimal Degrees, try for 4 decimal places (DD.DDDD). If Degrees and Minutes, then DD MM.MMM, or if Degrees, Minutes, Seconds, DD MM SS.S. A hand held GPS works fine. Another relatively easy way if you have broad-band access, is to use the web http://www.topozone.com. Use the upper left button to View Maps. Select the state, then the county. You will be given a long list of place names within the county. Pick one that is nearby. Adjust the size of the map until you can see your location. Then, click on your location. The center position will be indicated in the map title. At the lower left, under the Coordinate Format, select DD.DDD. The lat lon will appear just above the map. Write down the lat lon. Get the elevation (in feet) by reading the contours on the map, to within 20 ft. You can print the map. This is all free. Other routes may request that you make a purchase, but that is not necessary. GoogleMaps and MapQuest and GoogleEarth are alternate ways, but are sometimes more involved.

The county library has copies of topomaps, and you can interpolate your position. The ADC maps also give lat lon coordinates, and you can interpolate from them.

www.topozone.com is the best way to get your elevation. GPS altitudes are too inaccurate. If you have difficulty doing this, get back to me.